GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:50
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF POVERTY LEVEL
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of poverty level has downsized during the Ninth Plan period ;

(b) whether poverty level is being estimated on the basis of monthly per capita consumption and not on the basis of per capita income;

(c) if so, the justification thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the below poverty level in rural areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K.PATIL)

(a) Achievements in alleviation of poverty are reflected in the poverty ratios. As per the estimates of poverty obtained by the Planning Commission, the rural poverty declined to 27.09 % in 1999-2000 from 37.27 % in 1993-1994. Poverty estimates corresponding to Five Year Plan periods are not obtained separately.

(b) & (c) The Planning Commission, on the recommendation of a Task Force,estimates poverty levels in terms of calorie intake which depends on consumption pattern.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a Self Employment Schemea Wage Employment Scheme, the Rural Housing Schemes and Watershed Development Programmes which contribute in reducing poverty in rural areas.